

Urban Search and Rescue – Iowa Task Force 1

Iowa Task Force 1 (IA-TF1) is currently rated as a FEMA Type III Search and Rescue Task Force with a few exceptions. Working with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, information sharing, team alert and activation protocols have been established. Once alerted, situation and size-up information will be discussed with the local jurisdiction (incident commander), the county emergency management official, IA-TF1 and the State emergency operations center. If activated, the entire Task Force or a specific section, will assemble, prep and deploy within 3 hours. Real-time requests for support involving IA-TF1 have revealed that sectional call-out have resulted in deployment within 1 hour and the unit being on-scene, ready to assist within 3 hours. (Middletown and Storm Lake)

IA-TF1 currently rosters 81 personnel. Each member is issued the required personal protective equipment such as headgear, boots, gloves and pads, cold weather gear and respirator. Current cost to equip each member is \$4600.00

The Task Force continues to work very closely with FEMA's Texas Task Force 1, Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), as well as other training companies to provide all members with technical, structural collapse search and rescue training. This training meets NFPA 1006 Standards for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications and NFPA 1670 Standards on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents. Each member is additionally cross-trained in the following nine areas to ensure depth of capability and sustained operations:

1. Search operations, including hazard assessment, physical search, canine search, and electronic search
2. Rescue operations, including wood, steel, and concrete structures (reinforced and un-reinforced), & heavy rigging
3. Medical operations for injured Task Force members and entrapped victims
4. HazMat/WMD operations to monitor and analyze the rescue environment and providing technical and decontamination assistance to personnel as needed.
5. Logistics operations to include maintenance, movement and distribution of the team's cache of equipment as well as the communications and transportation needs of the Task Force.
6. Planning & Technical operations includes all types of planning, structural integrity assessment, and information technology.
7. National Incident Management System compliance.
8. National Response Plan integration.
9. Incident Command System.

Current cost to attend TEEX search and rescue program is \$5400.00

Urban Search and Rescue – Iowa Task Force 1

To ensure rapid response and improve standardization and interoperability, IA-TF1 has adopted the elements of FEMA's search and rescue equipment cache. These elements are subdivided into six main sub-sections; rescue, medical, technical, communications, logistics, and planning. All major equipment purchases are complete with the exception of the entire medical cache (pharmaceutical) and some logistical supplies that would enable the Task Force to function for 10 days.

IA-TF1 is considered an "all hazard response Task Force" because it is comprised of the following sections, such as:

1. Search Section – can provide technical and canine search capabilities that can be used in structural, wild land and water search scenarios.
2. Rescue Section - can be used for all types of structural collapse, confined space, high angle rope, and vehicle rescue situations.
3. Hazardous Materials Section - can be utilized to provide air monitoring or decontamination support to other hazardous materials response teams.
4. Medical Section - can provide emergency medical services to responders, civilians, and canines used in search operations.
5. Logistics Section - can provide transportation for equipment and personnel. This section can provide a means for any special team to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours by supplying food and water. They can also provide shelters for command and control, communications, sleeping, dining, and personal hygiene.
6. Communications - can provide a separate onsite interoperability communications capability.
7. Planning - can develop short and long range plans, provide technical information and incident documentation as well as the ability to provide technical equipment support such as computers, printers, and wired or wireless networking.
8. Command Section - consists of experienced commanders, section managers and safety specialists that have been trained in the Incident Command System, the National Incident Management System, the National Response Plan, emergency response tactics, and emergency scene safety operations.

As stated from above, these sections can be deployed as one unit or in separate sections to any type of incident or disaster depending on the situation.

Weaknesses

Although, Iowa has a strong Type III Search and Rescue capability, the initial long-range strategy was to develop it to a Type I Task Force. This strategy would have diminished the reliance upon support using State grant dollars by having FEMA provide this type of assistance. Since FY2005, FEMA has declined to accept any new search and rescue teams.

The following three (3) areas are seen as weaknesses.

Urban Search and Rescue – Iowa Task Force 1

Equipment

While all major equipment purchases are complete, the Task Force is foreseeing sustainment of capabilities of some this equipment.

Communications: Annual service contracts for radio and satellite communications will total approx. \$14,000 / year.
Many contracts expire before April 30th, 2008.

Equipment: Maintenance and certification of pneumatic, gas and medical equipment is estimated at \$20,000 / year.

Consumables (batteies, filters, saw blades, etc) estimated at \$15,000 / year.

Many of these costs are not grant eligible.

Personnel / Training

Approximately 15 personnel require advanced search and rescue training (TEEX). As indicated from above, this amounts to approx. \$5400.00 per person. Seven (7) personnel require PPE (\$4600 each). The Task force will strengthen by adding 9 new members. These new members will also require PPE and training/certification.

Each USAR Division has one Task Force Leader or director responsible for managing funds, purchasing equipment, keeping training records, establishing SOP's, scheduling training and other tasks associated with the organization and management of the team. Sioux City also has a part-time secretary to enter purchase orders, maintain updates in training records and preparing documents. The total cost associated with these positions is \$150,000.00 per year for each division.

These costs remain allowable by the HSGP Grant.

Sustainability

Personnel have donated thousands of hours, which equates to tens of thousands of dollars, and the sponsoring fire departments continue to contribute to the program by housing and maintaining equipment and vehicles, as well as providing facilities for training and exercises.

IA-TF 1 will require assistance to secure a source of sustainment funding. It needs to find a mechanism(s) to sustain essential positions such as the Task Force Director and Logistics Manager to coordinate and manage personnel and equipment. IA-TF 1 also needs to secure funding to maintain and replace equipment.

Urban Search and Rescue – Iowa Task Force 1

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Minimum Capabilities (Component)	Minimum Capabilities (Metric)	Type I	Type II	Type III
Personnel	Number of People per Response	70-person response	UNDER DEVELOPMENT	28-person response
Personnel	Training	NFPA 1670 Technician Level in area of specialty; Support personnel at Operations Level		NFPA 1670 Technician Level in area of specialty; Support personnel at Operations Level
Personnel	Areas of Specialization	High angle rope rescue (including highline systems); Confined space rescue (permit required); Advanced Life Support (ALS) intervention; Communications; WMD/HM operations; Defensive water rescue		Light frame construction and basic rope rescue operations; ALS intervention; HazMat conditions; Communications; and trench and excavation rescue
Personnel	Sustained Operations	24-hour S&R operations; Self-sufficient for first 72 hours		12-hour S&R operations; Self-sufficient for first 72 hours
Personnel	Organization	Multidisciplinary organization of Command; Search; Rescue; Medical; HazMat; Logistics; Planning		Multidisciplinary organization of Command; Search; Rescue; Medical; HazMat; Logistics; Planning
Equipment	Sustained Operations	Potential mission duration of up to 10 days		Potential mission duration of up to 10 days
Equipment	Rescue Equipment	Pneumatic Powered Tools; Electric Powered Tools; Hydraulic Powered Tools; Hand Tools; Electrical; Heavy Rigging; Technical Rope; Safety		Pneumatic Powered Tools; Electric Powered Tools; Hydraulic Powered Tools; Hand Tools; Electrical; Heavy Rigging; Technical Rope; Safety
Equipment	Medical Equipment	Antibiotics/ Antifungals; Patient Comfort Medication; Pain Medications; Sedatives/Anesthetics/Paralytics; Steroids; IV Fluids/Volume; Immunizations/Immune Globulin; Canine		Antibiotics/Antifungals; Patient Comfort Medication; Pain Medications; Sedatives/Anesthetics/Paralytics; Steroids; IV Fluids/Volume;

Urban Search and Rescue – Iowa Task Force 1

		Treatment; Basic Airway; Intubation; Eye Care Supplies; IV Access/Administration; Patient Assessment Care; Patient Immobilization/Extrication; Patient/PPE; Skeletal Care; Wound Care; Patient Monitoring		Immunizations/Immune Globulin; Canine Treatment; Basic Airway; Intubation; Eye Care Supplies; IV Access/ Administration; Patient Assessment Care; Patient Immobilization/ Extrication; Patient/ PPE; Skeletal Care; Wound Care; Patient Monitoring
Equipment	Technical Equipment	Structures Specialist Equip; Technical Information Specialist Equip; HazMat Specialist Equip; Technical Search Specialist Equip; Canine Search Specialist Equip		Structures Specialist Equip.; Technical Information Specialist Equip; HazMat Specialist Equip; Technical Search Specialist Equip; Canine Search Specialist Equip
Equipment	Communications Equipment	Portable Radios; Charging Units; Telecommunications, Repeaters, Accessories; Batteries; Power Sources; Small Tools; Computer		Portable Radios; Charging Units; Telecommunications; Repeaters; Accessories; Batteries; Power Sources; Small Tools; Computer
Equipment	Logistics Equipment	Water/Fluids; Food; Shelter; Sanitation; Safety; Administrative Support; Personal Bag; Task Force Support; Cache Transportation/ Support; Base of Operations; Equipment Maintenance		Water/Fluids; Food; Shelter; Sanitation; Safety; Administrative Support; Personal Bag; Task Force Support; Cache Transportation/ Support; Base of Operations; Equipment Maintenance

Comments:

Federal asset. There are 28 FEMA US&R Task Forces, totally self-sufficient for the first 72 hours of a deployment, spread throughout the continental United States trained and equipped by FEMA to conduct physical search and rescue in collapsed buildings, provide emergency medical care to trapped victims, assess and control gas, electrical services and hazardous materials, and evaluate and stabilize damaged structures. **Should either a Type I or a Type III Task Force be deployed by ground, they may add: Type I - 10 additional ground support personnel (for a subsequent total of 80 personnel). Type III - 6 additional ground support personnel (for a subsequent total of 34 personnel).**